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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.36

United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/60 of 14 December 1993 and its decision 49/434 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation,

Reaffirming that one of the fundamental prerequisites of the achievement of sustainable development is broad-based public participation in decision-making,

Acknowledging the relevance of opportunity and participation in the economic and social development agenda of the United Nations, as reflected in the various international conferences and agreements related to the follow-up of the Rio process,

Commending the South Pacific Forum Vision Statement, 1/ adopted by the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 13 to 15 September 1995, which promotes opportunities for international and regional cooperation leading to growth with equity, broad-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance,

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1/ A/50/475, annex, appendix II.

Noting that the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation met at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 May 1995,

1. Welcomes the report of the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation; 2/

2. Takes note of the Panel's contribution to the completion of an agenda for development and the follow-up arrangements to the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995;

3. Invites Member States, relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to consider the insights and the recommendations of the Panel, particularly the relevant sections of its report related to the efforts to be made for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries as an effective measure for promoting opportunity and participation in the context of national development and the economic and social development of all peoples;

4. Invites the Commission for Sustainable Development, in the overall framework of trade, environment and sustainable development, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development and small-scale fisheries development, to draw upon the work of the Panel;

5. Invites the Committee for Development Planning, in accordance with its mandate, to take into account the recommendations of the Panel in its work in 1996 in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; 3/

6. Encourages the relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, to increase their efforts in promoting opportunity and participation and to develop those concepts and incorporate them into their strategies and programmes, including regional and national workshops and seminars;

7. Invites Member States and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to these efforts;

8. Encourages support for the widest possible dissemination of the report of the Panel to the international community.

2/ A/50/501 and Add.1, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.